

Homeless Trust Survey on Miami-Dade County's Generosity



Methodology

Zogby International was commissioned by the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust to conduct a telephone survey of adults in Miami-Dade County.

The target sample was 501 interviews. Samples were randomly drawn from telephone CD's of national listed sample. Zogby International surveys employ sampling strategies in which selection probabilities are proportional to population size within area codes and exchanges. Up to six calls are made to reach a sampled phone number. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR's (American Association for Public Opinion Research) approved methodologies and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies. Weighting by age, race, gender, and education is used to adjust for non-response. The margin of error is +/- 4.5 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Narrative Summary

More than half of respondents agree that homelessness in their neighborhood is a problem, with 22% calling it a major problem and 31% calling it a minor problem. Panhandling in their neighborhood is a problem for 20%, although panhandling in Miami-Dade County is a problem according to 57%.

Most respondents (79%) give to the homeless with more than 25% reporting donations in excess of \$50 per year. About 20% report donating time to the cause.

Twenty-two percent (22%) report that they never give money directly to people on the street, with 16% giving 2 or 3 times a week, and 15% giving once a month. Among those respondents who do give money directly to people on the street, nearly all give less than a few dollars each time in spare change. Those who give money to people on the street responded most often that they do it is because they think it's the right thing to do (46%) or because they feel sorry for the homeless (33%).

Most respondents (68%) reported never giving food directly to people on the street, and among those who do, about 10% do so once or twice a year. Those who do give food to people on the street do so because it meets the immediate need (44%), or because it's better than giving them money (23%).

Most respondents admitted that they do not know for sure if the people on the street are homeless or panhandlers (14% thought they were the same thing). Forty-five percent (45%) do not think it is effective to give money to someone on the street.

If there were another more reliable way to give loose change to the homeless, 61% would take advantage of it.

Do you think homelessness in your neighborhood is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem?

Major problem	22%
Minor problem	31
Not a problem	46
Not sure	1

Is panhandling in Miami-Dade County a problem?

Yes	57%
No	34
Not sure	9

Is panhandling in your neighborhood a problem?

Yes	20%
No	76
Not sure	4

Do you give to the homeless?

Yes	79%
No	21
Not sure	--

About how much money do you give to programs and services dedicated to the homeless?

None	26%
Less than \$50 per year	46
\$50 - \$100 per year	20
\$101 - \$200 per year	3
\$201 - \$300 per year	1
\$301 - \$400 per year	1
\$401 - \$500 per year	2
More than \$501 per year	1

About how much time do you volunteer to serve at homeless shelters or with other homeless assistance organizations?

I do not currently volunteer	81 %
Less than 1 hour per year	5
1-2 hours per year	1
3-4 hours per year	3
1-2 hours per month	4
1-2 hours per week	3
More than 2 hours per week.	3

About how often do you give money directly to people on the street?

Never	22 %	
Daily	5	91,371 adults
Two or three times a week	16	292,390 adults
Once a week	10	182,743 adults
Once every two weeks	11	201,018 adults
Once a month	15	274,115 adults
Once every two or three months	9	164,469 adults
Once or twice a year	5	91,371 adults
Fewer times than once a year	3	54,823 adults
Not sure (do not read)	4	73,097 adults

*Based upon Miami-Dade County adult population of 1,827,439

About how much money do you give directly to people on the street each time?

Less than a few dollars in spare change	89%
\$5-\$10	10
\$11-\$20	1
\$21-\$30	--
\$31 or more	--

Why do you give money to people on the street?

I feel guilty	0.5%
I feel sorry for them	33
I think it's the right thing to do	46
Other	20
Not sure (do not read)	0.5

About how often do you give food directly to people on the street?

Never	68%	
Daily	2	36,548 adults
Two or three times a week	2	36,548 adults
Once a week	3	54,823 adults
Once every two weeks	2	36,548 adults
Once a month	4	73,097 adults
Once every two or three months	4	73,097 adults
Once or twice a year	10	182,743 adults
Fewer times than once a year	4	73,097 adults
Not sure (do not read)	1	

*Based upon Miami-Dade County adult population of 1,827,439

Why do you give food to people on the street?

It meets their immediate need.	44%
It's better than giving them money	23
I feel guilty	7
I don't know who else will feed them	13
Other	9
Not sure	4

Do you know for sure whether the people on the street are homeless people, or panhandlers?

Yes	31%
No	44
I thought they were the same thing.	14
Not sure	11

On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not at all and 5 being very, how effective do you think it is to give money to someone on the street?

Not at all effective	29%
2	16
3	28
4	6
Very effective	20
Not sure	1

If there was another more reliable way to give loose change to the homeless – a way that let you give what you wanted and remain anonymous, would you take advantage of that?

Yes	61%
No	32
Not sure	7

If there were indoor locations where homeless people could receive food and services, would you:

Donate time serving or cooking food	23%
Donate time helping to clean facilities	1
Donate time mentoring teaching	5
Donate food	25
Donate money	13
Donate materials	4
Other	8
I would not make any donation of any kind	19
Not Sure	2

Are you familiar with any of the following programs that The Homeless Trust funds, for example Camillus Home, Helpline, Community Partnership for Homeless; Homeless Assistance Centers (HAC)?

Yes	58%
No	41
Not sure	1

In what ways can the community improve homeless assistance programs?

Do a better job of communicating ways in which the public can donate or volunteer	62%
Provide more food banks	63
Provide more shelter opportunities	71
Provide more affordable housing	63
Provide places to drop loose change that will be used for homeless assistance.	54
Not sure	5

If at the places in Miami-Dade County that you visit regularly, there were “Parking-meter styled” collection devices into which you could drop your spare change – Knowing that it would all go to help the homeless – How likely would you be to use them?

Very unlikely	21 %
Somewhat unlikely	8
Somewhat likely	26
Very Likely	39
Not sure	6

*Percentages in this survey summary were rounded up or down to a whole number.